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SUBJECT: BAHRAIN'S FM TO ATTEND MARCH 2 CONFERENCE IN SHARM

REF: STATE 14575

1. (SBU) CDA discussed reftel with MFA U/S Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa February 18. Shaikh Abdulaziz said Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmad Al Khalifa would attend the March 2 Sharm Al-Shaikh conference on Gaza relief. The FM would announce new Bahraini assistance still to be determined, and also highlight Bahraini public and private assistance efforts already underway. These latter included treatment in Bahraini hospitals for injured Gazans, and the repair of a school and a hospital in Gaza.

2. (SBU) Shaikh Abdulaziz confirmed that the GOB was requiring Bahraini donors to channel their contributions through the national relief committee chaired by the King's son Shaikh Nasser. Bahrain was working to ensure assistance did not flow through Hamas.

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